Rights, conditions of work, minimum wages, social security, labour relations, migrant workers, forced labour, child labour, equal remuneration for women for same or similar nature of work etc. The government have recently set up the Second National Commission on Labour which would comprehensively review labour laws to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Stoppage of child Labour

†943. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of child labourers are still being engaged throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take effective steps to stop the child labour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) According to the 1991 census data on child labour, the number of working children in the country is of the order of 11.28 million.

Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. State/UT Governments have an enforcement machinery to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Under the scheme of NCLPs, rehabilitation centres have been set up with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 85 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.8 lakh children. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The court has given several directions, in their judgement dated 10.12.96, including payment of compensation by the employers employing children in hazardous occupations. The Government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

(d) Does not arise.

Penalty on writing letter to PM

944. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether writing letter to the Prime Minister by the Chief Executive of a recognised service association of employees is a misconduct warranting imposition of a major penalty of compulsory retirement; and

(b) if so, the relevant provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government servants who are office bearers of the Staff Association are subject to the provisions of conduct and disciplinary rules like all other Government servants. As per the provisions of Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993, all representations by Service Association shall be submitted through proper channel and shall be addressed to the Government/Head of the Organisation or Head of the Department or Office. An office bearer of the Staff Association, who violates the provisions of the Conduct Rules is liable for disciplinary action under rules. The quantum of penalty for any misconduct is decided by the disciplinary authority taking into account the gravity of the misconduct proved against the Government servant and keeping in view the facts and circumstances of each case.